

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: Akira MATSUMOTO and Masashi FUKUYAMA

Serial No.: 10/036,325

Group Art Unit: 1772

Filed: December 26, 2001

Examiner: Catherine A. Simone

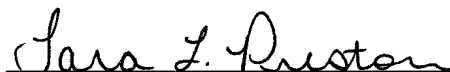
Conf. No.: 3228

For: RIBBONED POLARIZATION-MAINTAINING FIBER AND
MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREFOR, AND
POLARIZATION-MAINTAINING OPTICAL FIBER ARRAY
USING THE SAME

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted via EFS to the Patent
and Trademark Office on September 14, 2006.



Tara L. Preston

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed June 14, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of record based on the following arguments.

Examiner Simone is thanked for courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives during a telephonic interview on July 19, 2006. During the interview, Examiner Simone indicated that a Rule 132 Declaration should be filed to provide evidentiary support for the arguments made during the telephonic interview. Accordingly, attached hereto is a Rule 132 Declaration of Mr. Yasunori Iwasaki to be entered and considered in the present case. Mr. Iwasaki attests that cured adhesive

does not surround the P/M fibers at any point in the device disclosed in JP 06-230246 (JP '246). Entry and consideration of the Rule 132 Declaration are respectfully requested.

1. Claims 2-6 and 20-23 were rejected under §103(a) over JP '246. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Pending independent claim 21 recites a ribboned polarization-maintaining fiber, comprising, among other things, a plurality of polarization-maintaining fibers and a cured ribbon portion having first and second lateral ends and a length of 2 to 300 mm surrounding at least some of the polarization-maintaining fibers.

The cured adhesive of JP '246 does not surround the polarization-maintaining fibers at any point throughout the length of the JP '246 device. As is shown in the figure attached to Mr. Iwasaki's Rule 132 Declaration and described therein, the JP '246 device can be divided into three distinct sections. Each of the stripped P/M fibers in Section 1 contacts the locational "V" groove in two locations and the top plate at one location. Each of the stripped P/M fibers in Section 2 contacts the locational "V" groove in two locations. The sheathed P/M fibers in section 3 contact the lower substrate and the top plate. Accordingly, the cured adhesive does not surround any of the P/M fibers along the length of the JP '246 device. Therefore, JP '246 fails to disclose or suggest a ribboned P/M fiber comprising a cured ribboned portion surrounding at least some of the polarization-maintaining fibers, as recited in claim 21.

Since claims 2-6 and 21-23 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 21, those claims are also believed to be allowable over the applied prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection are respectfully requested.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims herein define patentable subject matter over the art of record. Accordingly, Examiner Simone is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for this application in due course.